Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

- 1. (Original) A polymer comprising quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups bound to the backbone of the polymer, said quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups being neutralised by counter-ions, characterised in that the counter-ions consist of the anionic residue of an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.
- 2. (Original) Process for the preparation of a polymer according to claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - Quaternisation of an amine- or phosphine-functional monomer of formula (I): wherein Y is O or NH, Z is N or P, R¹ is a hydrogen atom or a C₁-C₄ alkyl

$$H_2C = C - C - Y - R^2 - Z$$

group, R^2 is a C_2 or a C_3 - C_{12} alkylene group, R^3 and R^4 independently represent a C_1 - C_6 alkylene group or an optionally substituted phenyl group.

- Replacement of the counter-ion of the quaternised ammonium or phosphonium monomer by a carboxylate group derived from an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.
- Polymerisation of at least one type of long-chain acid-capped quaternary ammonium monomer and/or at least one type of long-chain, acid-capped quaternary phosphonium-functional monomer.
- 3. (Canceled) Use in anti-fouling coating compositions of a polymer comprising quaternary ammonium and/or quaternary phosphonium groups bound to the backbone of the polymer, said quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups being neutralised by counter-ions, characterised in that the

counter-ions consist of the anionic residue of an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.

- 4. (Original) Anti-fouling coating compositions comprising an ingredient having marine biocidal properties and a polymer comprising quaternary ammonium and/or quaternary phosphonium groups bound to the backbone of the polymer, said quaternary ammonium groups and/or quaternary phosphonium groups being neutralised by counter-ions, characterised in that the counter-ions consist of the anionic residue of an acid having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms.
- 5. (Original) Coating composition according to claim 4, characterised in that the counter-ions comprise 6 to 50 carbon atoms.
- 6. (Previously Presented) Coating composition according to claim 4, characterised in that the coating composition additionally comprises a rosin material.
- 7. (Original) Coating composition according to claim 6, characterised in that the coating composition has a binder comprising a blend of a rosin material and an auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 20:80 to 95:5, the auxiliary film-forming resin comprising 20-100% by weight of a quaternary ammonium- and/or quaternary phosphonium-functional film-forming polymer (A), the quaternised groups of which are blocked by groups capable of hydrolysing, dissociating or exchanging with seawater species to leave a polymer soluble in seawater, the blocking groups being anionic residues of acids having an aliphatic, aromatic, or alkaryl hydrocarbon group comprising 6 or more carbon atoms, and 80-20% of a non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).
- 8. (Original) Coating composition according to claim 7, characterised in that the binder comprises a blend of the rosin material and the auxiliary film-forming resin in a weight ratio of 55:45 to 80:20.

- 9. (Previously Presented) Coating composition according to claim 7, characterised in that the auxiliary film-forming resin comprises 30-90% by weight of the film-forming polymer (A) capable of hydrolysing or dissociating to a polymer soluble in sea water and 70-10% by weight of the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer (B).
- 10. (Currently Amended) Coating composition according to claim 4 claim 7, characterised in that the non-hydrolysing, water-insoluble film-forming polymer
 (B) is an acrylate ester polymer or a vinyl ether polymer.
- 11. (Previously Presented) Coating composition according to claim 4, characterised in that the binder includes a non-polymeric plasticiser present at up to 50% by weight based on the total binder polymer.
- 12. (Previously Presented) Method of coating man-made structures immersed in water such as boat hulls, buoys, drilling platforms, oil production rigs, and pipes, comprising coating said structures with the composition of claim 4.